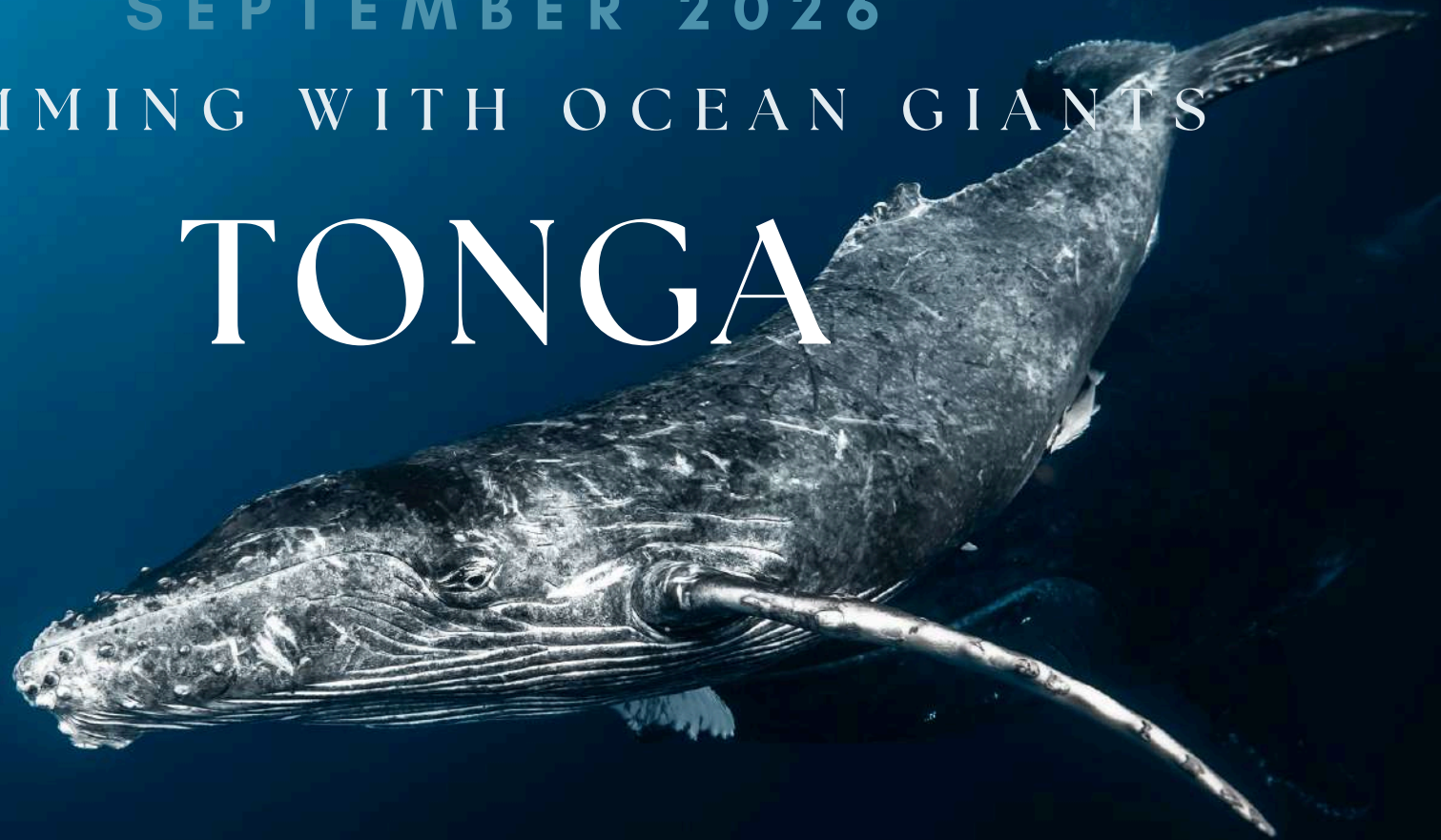


WWW.BROOKEPYKEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

SEPTEMBER 2026
SWIMMING WITH OCEAN GIANTS
TONGA



DATES: SEPTEMBER 2026

TRIP 1: SEP 5TH - 12TH

TRIP 2: SEP 12TH - 19TH

TRIP 3: SEP 19TH - 26TH



TONGA LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Ocean front accomodation. Private charters. Expert guides.
Private award winning chef. World-class whale encounters.
Cultural experiences. This is Tonga, elevated.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 Days on the water swimming with whales
- 7 nights water front accomodation with jetty
- Upclose encounters with humpbackwhales
- Explore hidden caves, secret beaches and reefs
- Private chef with all-inclusive meals
- Storyteller guide Brooke Pyke
- Expedition leader from Airguides
- Photography & editing masterclasses with Brooke
- Biology and whale behaviour presentations
- Personalized gallery of your best trip photos

BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW

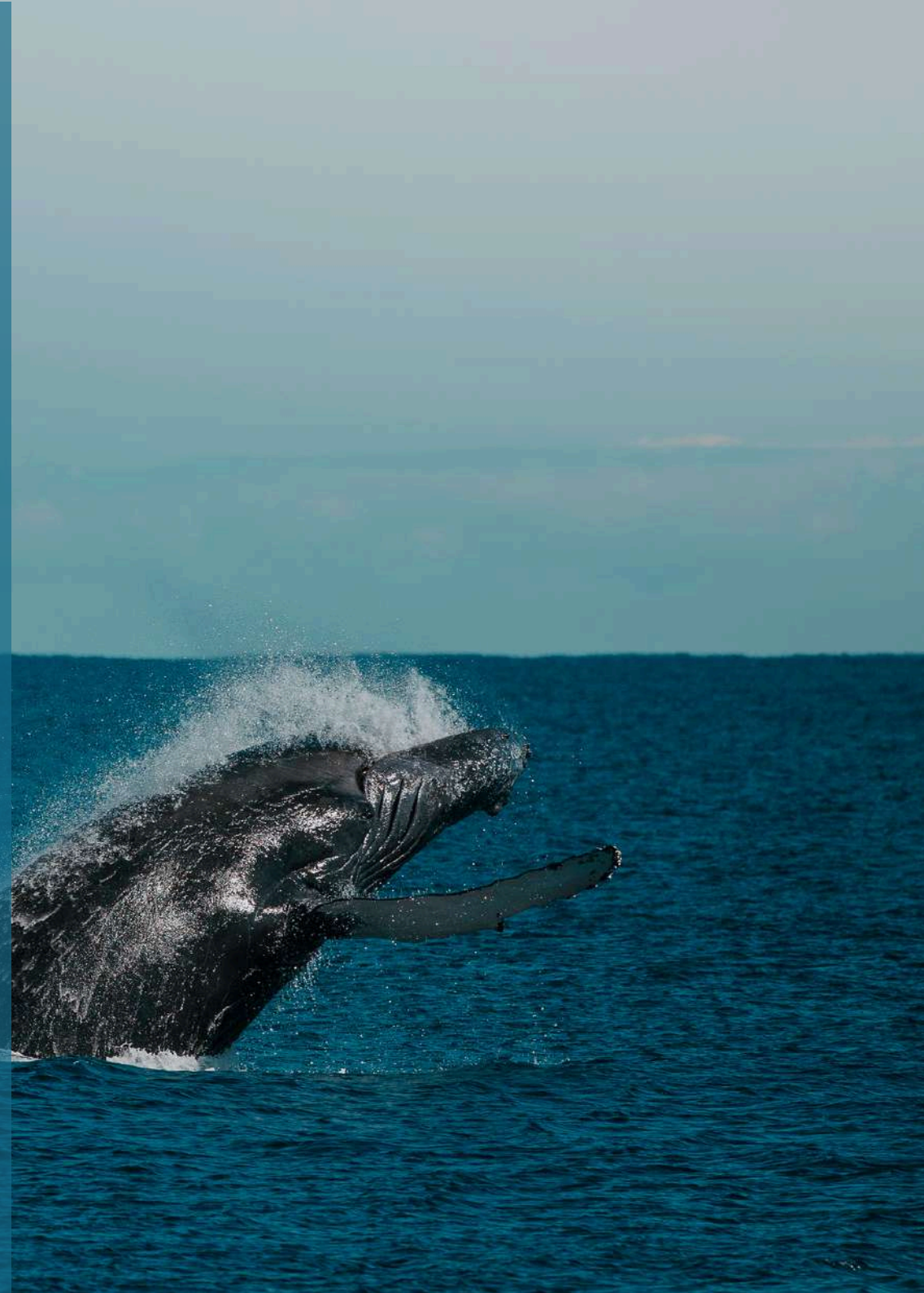
EMAIL US: HELLO@AIRGUIDES.COM

PHONE/WHATSAPP: (+61) 402552918

ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE

Immerse yourself in the unparalleled splendour of the deep blue as you join Brooke Pyke, an award-winning ocean photographer, on this epic Tongan adventure. Witnessing humpback whales in their natural habitat is a magical experience. Every year, thousands of these gentle giants make their pilgrimage from Antarctica's icy waters to the tropical haven of Tonga for mating and birthing. Brooke devotes her life to ocean photography and guiding travellers to educate and inspire about the wonders of the oceans. Join her and come face to face with one of earth's most magical animals.

Make your base in the island paradise of Vava'u, where every day you'll venture out on a private boat, led by one of the world's most experienced humpback whale boat operators to get the best chance to interact with these gentle giants of the deep. Elevate your underwater photography through exclusive Masterclasses led by Brooke, capturing ethereal moments that will last a lifetime. But that's just the tip of the iceberg! Explore mysterious blue caves and hidden beaches, all while enjoying the warm hospitality of your new Tongan community.



WHY BOOK THIS EXPERIENCE?

BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW

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Brooke's vision is clear: to offer a more intimate, respectful, and immersive experience. One where guests can connect with humpback whales on their terms—unhurried, deeply present, and guided by ethical practices. Every itinerary reflects Brooke's idea of a perfect day on the water: a handful of like-minded ocean lovers, and quiet, awe-inspiring encounters that stay with you forever.

Rather than racing between swim groups, Brooke's expeditions slow the pace. With private charters and a capped group size, each guest receives individual attention and space to settle into the rhythm of the ocean. The result is more time in the water, more meaningful interactions, and a chance to truly understand the whales' behaviour from moment to moment.

These trips also offer opportunities to build water confidence, learn freediving techniques, and refine underwater photography skills with Brooke's guidance. Working alongside local whale guides, guests also gain insight into the biology, communication, and conservation of these gentle giants.

On land, the journey continues with warm cultural experiences, shared meals, reflecting on the rare privilege of being welcomed into the whales' world.

By keeping it small, intentional, and deeply human, Brooke's Tonga expeditions offer something more than a tour, she creates space for transformation. A week that leaves you changed, connected, and profoundly moved by the ocean.



A large humpback whale is shown swimming underwater in deep blue water. The whale's head and back are visible, with its characteristic hump and mottled skin texture. The lighting is soft, highlighting the whale's form against the dark background.

ABOUT TONGA

Each year from July to October, the warm, sheltered waters of Tonga become a sanctuary for migrating humpback whales. After a long journey from Antarctica, these gentle giants arrive to breed, give birth, and nurse their young in the safety of the South Pacific. Among the many islands of Tonga, the Vava'u island group stands out as one of the best places in the world to encounter these majestic animals. With its deep, protected bays, clear visibility, and calm seas, Vava'u offers ideal conditions for safe, respectful, and awe-inspiring in-water whale experiences.

What makes Vava'u particularly special is the intimacy of the encounters. Unlike larger, high-traffic destinations, Tonga limits the number of boats and swimmers allowed near each whale pod, creating space for more meaningful and less intrusive interactions. In these waters, it's not uncommon to witness mothers resting with their calves, or to be approached by a curious whale who chooses to linger and observe you just as you observe them. This mutual curiosity and calm interaction make swimming with humpback whales in Vava'u a deeply emotional and unforgettable experience. Beyond the water, Vava'u offers a vibrant cultural backdrop. The local Tongan communities have a deep connection to the ocean and its creatures, and their traditional knowledge and respect for the whales are woven into the way tours are conducted. Time spent on land can include visiting local villages, enjoying fresh Tongan meals, and learning about the cultural significance of whales through stories and song. Combined with the pristine environment and powerful wildlife encounters, Vava'u is a place where connection—to nature, to culture, and to oneself—happens naturally.

YOUR GUIDE: BROOKE PYKE

MULTI AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER
DIVE INSTRUCTOR & MARINE EXPEDITION GUIDE

Originally from Melbourne, Brooke was drawn to photography early in life, often seen in high school with a small camera and a roll of black-and-white film. Although she initially planned to study photography, life took her in another direction and she pursued a career in graphic design.

A few years later, a chance encounter with scuba diving changed everything. Brooke left Australia to train as a dive instructor and spent several years working as a dive professional across Thailand, Indonesia, and back home in Australia. During that time, she borrowed a friend's underwater camera and rediscovered her first love. Her skill was evident, and soon dive shops began using her photos on their social media and websites.

The fusion of diving and creative expression became her new path, coinciding with the rise of Instagram, where she found inspiration from photographers around the world. Seeing others turn their passion into careers in marine photography fueled her own aspirations.

Photography became more than a hobby. It was a way to combine her creative eye with her connection to the ocean. Inspired by a growing community of marine photographers, Brooke began building her own portfolio, teaching herself through persistence, experimentation, and countless hours in the water.

In 2021, her dedication paid off when she landed her first professional photography role on Ningaloo Reef. Less than two years later, she earned international recognition at the 2022 Ocean Photography Awards (OPY). Many other photography awards have since followed.

Brooke now lives and works on the Ningaloo Reef as a professional photographer. She loves sharing her backyard with visitors and leading expeditions for like-minded ocean enthusiasts, both on Ningaloo and in destinations around the world.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 5 Days on the water swimming with whales
- 7 nights water front accomodation with jetty
- Upclose encounters with humpbackwhales
- Explore hidden caves, secret beaches and reefs
- Tongan welcome feast
- All meals, snacks and refreshments
- Private chef cooked meals
- Storyteller guide Brooke Pyke
- Expedition leader from Airguides
- Biology and whale behaviour presentations
- Photography fundamentals workshop
- Adobe Lightroom editing workshop
- •1:1 photo feedback session with Brooke
- Professional images from your trip captured by Brooke
- Digital copies of all workshop materials and presentations
- Underwater photography manual (digital PDF)
- In-house high-speed Wi-Fi
- Small group of only 7 guests
- Airport Transfers



TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1: Welcome To Vava'u

Arrive to Vava'u airport and be greeted by our friendly staff who will transport you to our ocean front accomodation. Enjoy a welcome drink and meet your fellow trip guests and guides. Rest and refresh before a welcome. Tonga feast to start the trip.

Day 2: Island Tour & Workshops

Join us and our local Tongan guide for a tour of the island, learn about the local history and take in the sights. After lunch we will conduct a quick snorkelling practice session on the house reef. A great chance to refresh your skills, make sure your equipment works and is comfortable before the days ahead. Before dinner Brooke will conduct a whale swimming chat to run through all the rules and tell you what to expect over the next 5 days. Following that she will run a photography workshop for those wanting to learn.

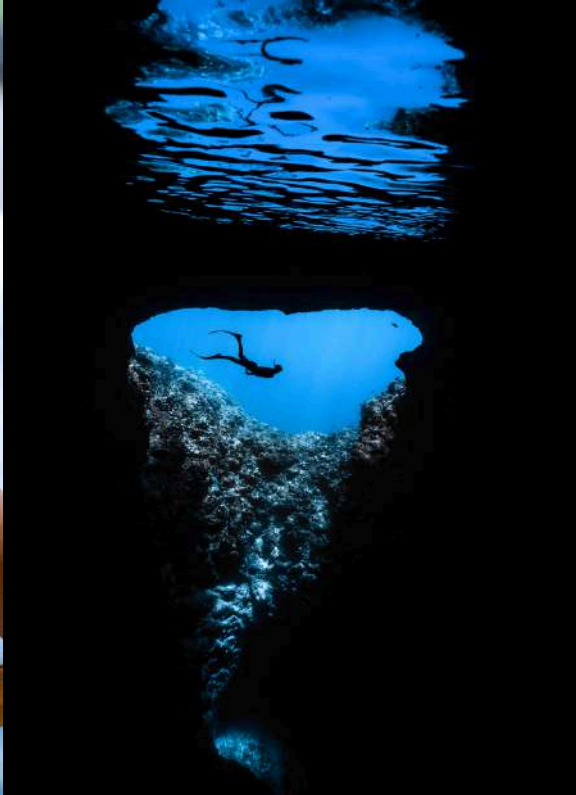
Day 3-7: Whale Swimming & Evening Events

As the sun rises we wake up and enjoy an early breakfast before heading down to the jetty to board our whale swimming vessel. We will begin searching for whales and looking for suitable pods to swim with. After whale swimming we will head close to the islands for lunch. After refuelling ourselves we will end each day out with either exploring some reefs, hidden caves or beaches before heading back home. In the evenings we will have several different events such as: Whale Biology presentations, photo feedback and editing sessions, movie nights, sunsets on the jetty.

Day 8: Farewell

It is sadly time to say goodbye to our island home and the whales. After breakfast we will drop you to the airport and say our final farewells.







WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

- Mask and snorkel (low-volume freediving mask recommended)
- Freediving fins (or closed-heel snorkelling fins, not scuba fins)
- Freediving weight belt
- 1-2mm fin socks (if you're prone to blisters)
- Full-length wetsuit (3mm recommended)
- Spray jacket, warm sweater and beanie
- Swimwear and clothing for both warm and cool weather
- Sunhat and reef-safe sunscreen
- Beach towel
- Reusable water bottle
- Seasickness medication (if you're prone to motion sickness)
- Insect repellent
- Good vibes and your inner ocean calm

FOR THOSE PARTICIPATING IN PHOTOGRAPHY:

- Camera with wide-angle lens, GoPro or similar
- Underwater housing for camera
- Zoom lens (optional for above-water photos)
- Spare batteries and SD cards
- Spare O-rings, grease and basic camera tools
- Lens cleaner and microfibre cloths
- Carry bag for your camera
- Arm or wrist lanyard for underwater setups
- GoPro as a backup (optional)
- Laptop with Adobe Lightroom Classic installed
- Portable hard drive for backups





WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- Underwater camera hire
- Snorkelling or freediving equipment
- Travel or dive insurance
- International or domestic flights
- Alcoholic drinks



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PRICE: \$5,300 USD PER PERSON

To book we require a \$1,000 USD deposit to hold your space with balance due 90 days before arrival.

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